

state regulation of clinical labs in anticipation of federal regulations and also to deal with some problems and concerns in the whole area of clinical labs and their accuracy and "applicacy". That legislation was passed and it was to be implemented in 1991...1991, but it was...had some difficulty in some language, and last year we did pass some legislation to clarify some of that; but, it still was not implemented in 1991, which was, of course, a concern to those advocating the legislation. But it turns out now that here in 1992, finally four years after the passage of CLIA '88, the federal government has decided to move forward and implement in rather a rapid fashion after a four-year wait, they are rapidly moving to put into place federal standards and federal regulation in this area. As a matter of fact, April 1 marked the first date of movement on this, and I think by September 1 we have to have some compliance in place. This is a complicated issue, and it's moved from a snail's pace to a rocket pace moving rapidly. And in the confusion and uncertainty of what to do this amendment to this committee amendment would accomplish the following. First it would clarify a particular area of concern that was there with the original LB 1016 which clarified blood banks and transfusions and how they would be covered under this provision, and that language under this amendment is clarified further because of the federal rules and regs that have just come out about a month or so ago. And so that follows up with what we tried to do in previous legislation, the committee amendments, and further clarifies that particular provision. In addition it says that these standards that this state regulated activity will occur not...not until January 1 of 1994, which would allow us to see the federal provisions put into place this summer and will give us some time before next January, next session. We can see whether or not we need to amend the state legislation that we already have on the books, and it would be somewhat refined by this amendment, and we can see if further refinement is necessary, or if it's in good shape it'll be there to be implemented starting January 1 of 1994, and frankly if the federal rules and regs and implementation and enforcement are satisfactory to all parties involved it would seem to me that the...that maybe we won't even need to take the step of having the state regulation. But that's all a decision to be made, I think, next session pending what happens over the course of the next few months and we'll know far more a year from now than we do right now about what is the best course of action for the State of Nebraska. So this would allow us to delay the implementation of that legislation, LB 551, until January 1